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CIRCULATE

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1. From PW Camp No 68/3, presumably in the northwestern town sector of Chelyabinsk (61°25' E/55°09' N), Chelyabinsk Oblast, an airfield was seen, the E-W dimensions of which was estimated at 800 to 1,000 meters, N-S 600 meters.

No Change in

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50X1

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2

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1

2. There were two three-story barracks buildings and a concrete runway.
3. The field was occupied by twin-engine aircraft and biplanes.
4. An airfield was west of the Miass River, about 5 to 7 km northwest of the Chelyabinsk railroad station. In addition to aircraft types known from WW II, a four-engine bomber type was seen at the field. Mass parachute jumping and diving with gliders fitted with parachute brakes were practiced.
5. There was intensive flying at the field presumably west of the Miass River. A four-engine type aircraft with nose wheel was particularly noted.
6. From Bagal (sic), presumably 12 km southeast of Chelyabinsk, it was observed that an airfield was about 4 km to the north. This field was about 6 km east of Chelyabinsk, 2 km northwest of Sandestroi (sic), and about 4 km south of a railroad line leading to Siberia. It was on a plateau and bordered on woods to the southwest.
7. There was a hard-surface M-35 runway which was illuminated at night. There were four barracks blocks and behind them some hangars in the western section of the field.
8. There was flying with multi-engine aircraft and intensive parachuting from two or three planes, 20 to 30 parachutes being observed in the air at the same time.
9. The Bagal town sector, built from 1945 to 1948, was presumably about 10 km east of Chelyabinsk.
10. There was an airfield probably on the eastern town perimeter of Chelyabinsk, north of an artery road to Bagal, 1½ to 2 km from a color and sulphur plant. There were hangars and barracks-like quarters at the field. Training flights with U-2s and parachuting from U-2s and twin-engine planes (six men jumping from each plane) were observed.
11. Another airfield was farther eastward, probably 3 km north of Bagal. It was on a plateau and, therefore, seen from a great distance. Hangars and quarters were at the field. Twin-engine planes stationed there made individual and formation flights.
12. The airfield was east of Chelyabinsk, north of the asphalt road leading to Zostgorod (sic).
13. The following installations were on the southern edge of the field, about 800 meters from the road:
 - a. Two hangars
 - b. Six four-story barracks buildings occupied by parachutists and flying personnel.

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3

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1

The parachutists wore the parachute badge on the breast (a parachutist suspended from an unfolded parachute with two stars). The badge was of metal, the parachute on it painted red, the ropes yellow and the figure of the parachutist khaki-brown.

14. parachuting was practiced from four 70 to 80-meter towers in front of the barracks buildings. The parachutists would jump, releasing themselves by a rip cord from ropes fixed at long booms projecting from the top of the towers.
15. The airfield was north of Chelyabinsk.
16. Twin-engine aircraft were seen at the field.
17. [redacted] all Soviet

juveniles were to be trained in parachuting and that such a training course would last 14 days. The trainees were awarded the parachute badge after three individual jumps from the mentioned twin-engine aircraft flying at an altitude of about 500 meters (observed also by source).

50X1-HUM

Comment:

50X1-HUM

This report indicates that at least three airfields are located near Chelyabinsk:

a. The airfield north or northwest of Chelyabinsk, which is probably an improved air base, has one or two runways, hangars and solid quarters. The field is apparently occupied by a parachute and air landing school and an air transport unit. Four-engine aircraft were also seen there. Noteworthy is the observation that cargo gliders equipped with parachute brakes made practice dives which so far have only been reported from the Stakhanovo test station.

The field presumably also serves as a commercial field.

b. The airfield on the southeastern town perimeter of Chelyabinsk is presumably an improved air base with hangars and solid quarters. A parachute school seems to be at this field also.

c.

[redacted] a third airfield was recently constructed about 10 km southeast of Chelyabinsk. The field seems to be occupied by an air unit, obviously equipped with twin-engine aircraft.

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